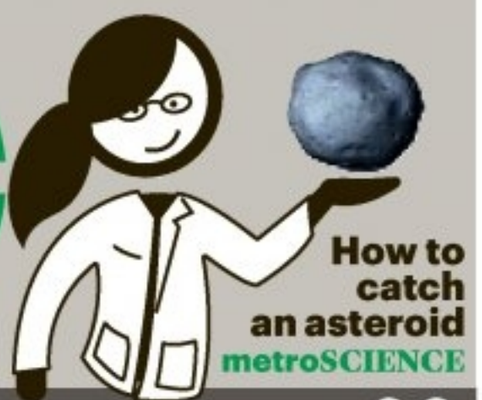
Ottawa metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2016



High 27°C/Low 17°C Mainly sunny

OTTAWA'S MAPLE TREE SPENDING SPREE

City getting sappy over Canada's 150th anniversary

metroNEWS

ISTOCK

Read between the bylaws, 'little library'

HINTONBURG

Clandestine op shuttered after single complaint

Evelyn Harford
For Metro | Ottawa

Not even little community libraries are immune to bylaw enforcement.

A regretful note was placed inside the window of the Little Library on Oxford Street announcing its closure after three years of service due to a bylaw complaint.

Mimi Golding, the woman behind the clandestine library, said she and her husband Tim were told their little library wasn't allowed on city property. The couple were given until Sept. 16 to remove the little library or risk being strapped with a fine.

The Goldings and neighbourhood residents were saddened and angered by the news.

"It's just unfortunate that one complaint can result in the loss of something so important in the community," said Vicky Smallman, a Hintonburg resident and a patron of the little library.

Smallman said dozens of little libraries have cropped up around the city and she's worried about what precedent the closure of this little library will mean for the rest of them.

Kitchissippi ward Coun. Jeff Leiper said he hopes that the city and the Goldings can find a solution so that the library can stay.

"It is fixable," he said, so long as the residents are willing to make some small fixes to the structure, including shifting location and reducing its size. He said he wants to create a permit to regulate little libraries so that bylaw won't shut down other little libraries in the future.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

45 people were trapped in cablecars in midair overnight in the French Alps.

Cyclist Allan Roth said a bike lane would make him feel safer on Beechwood Avenue. EMMA JACKSON / METRO

More bike lanes, fewer parking spots bad for business: Shops

BEECHWOOD AVENUE

Store owners worry about the changes

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

As Beechwood Avenue undergoes its complete street makeover, shop owners fear the new bike lanes will be bad for business.

The complete street project started this week, with city crews painting bike lanes in both directions from Putman Avenue to Springfield Road and Charlevoix Street and cutting vehicle lanes in half.

The changes will affect Beechwood's parking, which will drop to only 29 spots from 56 spots in off-peak hours.

While the total number of spots in the neighbourhood will actually increase by as many as 61 spots during peak hours, side street parking just doesn't cut it, said Monique Dugas, who owns Clothes Encounters consignment shop.

"People have all their clothes to drop off," she said, arguing her customers need the door-to-door service. "At the flower shop (next door), do you think people are going to carry all their flowers if they're going to a wedding or a funeral?"

She predicted the street's boutiques and specialty shops will close because of the changes.

Rideau-Rockcliffe Coun. Tobi Nussbaum said he's "sensitive" to the merchants' concerns, but cited a parking utilization study which found only 32 per cent of Beechwood's spots were being used during rush hour. Off-peak parking rates were even lower, between 25 and 27 per cent, even on weekends. Studies of nearby side-street parking were similar.

"It's very hard to make the argument that this is going to cause hardship," Nussbaum said.

Jamie Kwong, director of the Quarter Vanier BIA, said she'd like the city to post wayfinding signs to help customers find the new side street parking spots.

"These are the concessions they need to make to help minimize the amount of impact to our local businesses," she said.

The reconfiguration is a short-term solution until the corridor is rebuilt in the distant future, and Nussbaum is the first to admit it's not ideal.

For the next eight months, for example, the bike lane from St. Patrick Bridge won't connect to Beechwood over the Vanier Parkway, leaving a 200-metre gap on the north side and a 130-metre gap on the south.

City crews will fix that next spring once curbs can be reconfigured to make more room, Nussbaum said.

CONTROVERSY

School board bloc swaying decisions, say two trustees

A bloc of trustees determine who gets to head up school board committees, despite a "secret" ballot held during an organizational meeting in December, say Cathy Curry and Donna Blackburn.

Curry, who served as chair of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board before resigning in 2012, said it was common practice for a voting bloc of six or seven trustees to call each other to decide who gets what job. That bloc was big to prevent the nomination of trustees who weren't part of the clique.

"A trustee might get blocked from participating in a committee where they might have expertise or interest because of a way they voted on an issue the previous year," Curry said.

Blackburn describes sitting around at a trustee's house one year, deciding who gets to do which job.

"For me, it was never about having a title," said Blackburn, who is keen to serve on the special education advisory committee, but said she was blocked from joining this year.

> **A trustee might get blocked from participating in a committee.**
> Cathy Curry

There are numerous committees and their recommendations are taken to the committee of the whole meetings.

Current board chair Shirley Seward denied the practice and said committees are decided by secret ballot, with the voting taking place during the organizational meeting in December.

She called Curry an "interesting" trustee, but said she wouldn't debate her concerns about governance in the media.

"We are doing really important work right now that deals with student well-being," Seward said of the ongoing accommodation review.

Seward added the board works very harmoniously.

"I understand that Donna is not happy, and I am sorry for that, but there's a more collegial way to bring up her concerns."

JENNIFER MCINTOSH / METROLAND MEDIA

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

Varsity hockey team back

Evelyn Harford
For Metro | Ottawa

The University of Ottawa's men's varsity hockey team is back on the ice after the entire team was suspended two years ago in the wake of sexual assault allegations involving two of their players.

uOttawa Sports Services has taken action to create, "the appropriate environment to relaunch (men's varsity hockey)," said Isabelle Mailloux-Pulkinghorn, acting manager of media relations at the University of Ottawa, in an email.

An "extensive examination of procedures, practices and culture" was launched after the program's suspension in 2014. There's also plan to implement recommendations provided to Sports Services by the Task Force on Respect and Equality, launched in response to the allegations, which includes a requirement that all varsity student-athletes and full-time coaching staff undergo harassment and sexual violence training.

Julie Lalonde is a sexual violence educator in Ottawa and was part of the 2015 task force commissioned by the university to help combat sexual violence on campus. She said the steps taken by the university show a commitment to sexual violence prevention. She pointed to three noteworthy actions:

- Trained all senior administrators at the university on sexual violence prevention and response.
- Conducted a survey on campus about sexual violence perceptions to monitor changes in attitudes.
- Provided bystander intervention training to all students.

Lalonde said uOttawa is starting to move beyond the narrative that the hockey players accused of sexual assault in 2014 were not just "bad apples," but part of a larger "rape culture" embedded in within the campus.

Though progress has been made, Lalonde stresses that people still need to put pressure on institutions in order to improve sexual violence education and policy.

Citizens fight for bridge

INFRASTRUCTURE

Community crowdfunding to keep Prince of Wales open

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

A humble petition to keep the Prince of Wales bridge open has morphed into a fully-fledged campaign dedicated to raising its own improvement funds.

The Ottawa Rail Bridge Project, founded by resident Aileen Duncan, plans to crowdfund $100,000 and lobby government officials of all levels for more money to make the bridge safe and accessible.

"I saw all the interest stemming from the petition I realized the petition is only really good in so far as drawing awareness to things and defining next steps," said Duncan.

Duncan staged a "picnic sit-in" on the bridge on Wednesday night. She said it was a success, even though musicians and picnic-goers were blocked from accessing the bridge by police officers.

The Prince of Wales bridge spans the Ottawa River and has become a popular scenic spot, despite no trespassing signs. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

"We couldn't go on the bridge itself, but they were nice enough to let us hang out by the rails on the ground area," she said.

The idea of putting the bridge to use is not new to the National Capital Commission or the City of Ottawa. Both have mulled over the possibility of using it to link Gatineau and Ottawa, either as a pedestrian-cycling bridge by 2019 or a LRT connection by 2031.

The city's 2013 cycling plan estimates the cost to turn the bridge into a pedestrian-cycling path at $10-million, the costs of which would need to be shared by both cities — something that has yet to be agreed on. Right now the city intends to close the bridge to the public to protect against lawsuits.

> **I don't think we should just put up a gate for 20 years and wait until we decide what to do.**
> Aileen Duncan

Campaign organizers know the $100,000 wouldn't be enough to renovate the bridge, but Duncan is hoping the money will make it clear there's a strong public will.

"I don't think we should just put up a gate for 20 years and wait until we decide what to do," she said. "The appetite is right and there's a lot of federal funding being released right now for sustainable transportation projects."

CORRECTION

In the Sept. 7 edition of Metro Ottawa, two quotes were misattributed in the sidebar to the story about Mags and Fags changing its name to The Gifted Type ("New brand, old store").

This quote attributed to Katy Longair should have been attributed Pierre Lamonagne:

"I suggested they call it 'No Fags and a Few Mags' because they used to have a lot more mags than they do now and they don't sell tobacco. Now it's more of a gift shop, but that's alright. I get my papers here all the time and I'm happy with the place."

While this quote should have been attributed to Longair:

"I love it, the new name. It's a bit of a double entendre with the word type. I'm a long time customer and it's been interesting to watch the transition over the last few years but I've heard nothing but positive things from people coming in."

Metro regrets the error.

5 Things to do in the city this weekend

Bacon, bugs and bazaars: we have a list of fun events this weekend.

HALEY RITCHIE METRO

1 Night Market (all weekend)

The Ottawa night market returns — this year to Chinatown — to bring Asian food culture to the streets of Ottawa. Night Market favourites returning include Hong Kong bubble waffles, twisted potato chips, squid on a stick and bubble tea.

The market opens at 7 p.m. on Friday and 12 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Entry is free but bring cash for vendors.

2 Eid Bazaar (Friday)

Get prepped for Eid at Ottawa's very first multicultural Chand Raat Bazaar this weekend. There will be food, accessories, clothes and henna from across South Asian and the Middle East. Head to the Hellenic Meeting & Reception Centre (1315 Prince of Wales Drive) from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. on Friday. All are welcome.

3 Baconpalooza (all weekend)

The Museum of Agriculture is celebrating bacon this weekend with music, craft beer and everything bacon. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 per child per day. The festival kicks off at 7 p.m. on Friday and at 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

4 Bug Day (Saturday)

Are you into creepy crawlies? Share the love with the Entomological Society of Ontario this Saturday at 960 Carling Ave. (the Experimental Farm) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn to spot insects in the wild, visit the bug zoo and participate in insect crafts and face painting.

5 Savour Fall (Saturday)

Celebrate the harvest with this free event at Rideau Hall. On Saturday from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tour the gardens and the greenhouses, watch culinary demonstrations and enjoy tastings. Admission is free.

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City pouring on the maple groves for 2017

CELEBRATIONS

150 trees will be planted in each of city's 23 wards

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The City of Ottawa is ready to embark on a maple tree spending spree to celebrate Canada's tree-mendous 150th anniversary.

The "Canada 150 Maple Grove" project will see 150 maple trees planted in each of the city's 23 municipal wards at a cost of $345,000.

The trees will be planted together in formal groves on public lands which have been selected by councillors and staff, according to forest services manager David Barkley.

Mayor Jim Watson included the tree planting in his 2014 mayoral campaign. The money was expected to come from the estimated $5 million in provincial upload savings.

"Site preparation and installation work is primarily to be carried out through a contractor, but there will be public events held to recognize the program and unveil the groves once the work has been completed," said Barkley in an email.

3,450

Total number of new trees to be planted for Canada's anniversary.

In the tender documents, posted online Thursday, the city is requesting a price quote for a total of 3,450 trees, made up of red maples, silver maples and sugar maples.

Only bids from nurseries enrolled in the Maple Leaves Forever program will be considered.

The charitable foundation advocates for the planting of native Canadian maples, which it defines as trees grown locally from seed of known genetic sources.

KANATA AREA

Man faces multiple firearms charges

An Ottawa man faces a number of firearms charges following an altercation in the Kanata area.

Ottawa police were called early Thursday morning to the Roland Michener Drive area over a man with a gun making threats.

Police say the man left the area before officers arrived. They arrested him a short time later.

Police say no one fired any shots and no one was hurt.

Patrick Kool Montecatine, 22, of Ottawa has been charged with:

- Use of firearm
- Careless use of firearm, weapon, prohibited device
- Two counts of pointing a firearm
- Possession of a weapon
- Two counts of failure to comply with a recognizance
- Common nuisance
- Two counts of uttering threats cause bodily harm.

METRO

COURT

Patrick Kool Montecatine, was scheduled to appear in court Thursday.

LOWERTOWN

Man suffers serious injuries after stabbing

A man is in hospital with life-threatening injuries after he was stabbed Wednesday night near King Edward Avenue and Sussex Drive.

Ottawa police say they are now investigating the attack.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call Ottawa Police's Central Division at 613-236-1222, ext. 5212, or Crime Stoppers at 613-236-8477 (TIPS) or toll free at 1-800-222-8477.

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QUEEN'S PARK

Legislature prorogued for throne speech

Premier Kathleen Wynne has prorogued the Ontario legislature so her government can deliver a throne speech Monday, pressing the reset button to outline a new list of priorities less than two years before the next election.

Wynne's announcement Thursday came just days after her Liberal party lost a long-held seat in a suburban Toronto byelection to the Progressive Conservatives.

The premier's personal approval ratings have also hit an all-time low, in part because of widespread anger over soaring electricity bills.

A new throne speech allows the government to lay out a road map for the plan that will take them into the 2018 provincial election, said Genevieve Tellier, a professor at the University of Ottawa's school of public policy.

Government house leader Yasir Naqvi said all Liberal bills that died on the order paper when the legislature was prorogued Thursday would be re-introduced, including legislation to ban provincial politicians from engaging in most fundraising activities.

Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown, who was not available to take questions, issued a statement calling prorogation a distraction tactic that won't help the Liberals.

The Sept. 1 byelection loss in Scarborough-Rouge River, which had been Liberal since its creation in 1988, gave her "cause for reflection," Wynne admitted following the defeat.

"We heard at the door that hydro rates are increasingly challenging for people," she said. "I understand, as do my ministers, that the government needs to focus on helping people with their everyday expenses."

The legislature had already been set to return on Monday, so no sitting days are being lost.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Side guards on a dump truck that crushed a cyclist last week might have prevented the death, Bike Ottawa president Gareth Davies said. HALEY RYAN/METRO

Side guards not likely

CYCLING

Transport Canada dubious of safety benefit

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Calls for mandatory side guards in the wake of last week's cycling death may fall on deaf ears.

Mayor Jim Watson plans to send a letter to Transportation Minister Marc Garneau calling for more and better cycling safety measures at the national level, including mandating side guards on commercial trucks to prevent pedestrians and cyclists from getting crushed beneath their wheels in a collision.

That's exactly what happened to 23-year-old Nusrat Jahan, who was killed on the Laurier bike lane last Thursday. She was crushed when a dump truck driver turned right onto Lyon Street in front of her.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities will vote on a similar call for side guards next week.

But Transport Canada spokesperson Daniel Savoie said the department has studied the issue for years and isn't convinced it's the path to safety.

A European report published last June, for example, found 12 of the 29 heavy trucks involved in fatal cycling collisions in London, England between 2007 and 2011 had side guards. The cyclists still died.

But Citizens for Safe Cycling president Gareth Davies said at a bike rally last week that side guards can't hurt, even if they don't solve every problem.

"I don't know if a side guard would have prevented this (latest death), but I know it had more of a chance of preventing it than nothing," Davies said.

Savoie said the ministry is more interested in solutions that address a wider range of safety issues at once, like camera and radar systems, Savoie said in an email.

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> We had some kids, we lost some people we love. Some big things happened, so that definitely eeked its way into the music. It's in the lyrics, it's in the feeling and the intention behind it and just where we are at in our minds and in our hearts.
>
> Matthew "Woody" Woodley

Montreal indie trio Plants and Animals plays CityFolk Sept. 15. CONTRIBUTED

Letting the songs reveal themselves

BACKSTAGE PASS

Plants and Animals have new album after 4-year hiatus

Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

A lot can happen to Plants and Animals in four years, especially the ones that grow and live in Montreal.

The Montreal power indie trio hadn't released an album since The End of That in 2012, until Waltzed in from the Rumbling dropped this spring, and a quick listen reveals a band renewed, refreshed and revamped, but still with their firm roots healthy and growing.

"A lot happened to us while we were recording, because we spread out the whole thing for more than two years," says Plants and Animals drummer Matthew "Woody" Woodley, referring to how long the process took to record and produce Waltzed in.

"It was a very long and spotty process. Meanwhile, we had some kids, we lost some people we love.... Some big things happened, so that definitely eked its way into the music. It's in the lyrics, it's in the feeling and the intention behind it and just where we are at in our minds and in our hearts."

The album may have taken a while to get out, but it wasn't a frustrating journey for Woodley and the band. Actually, it was quite the opposite. The band was without a record deal at the time, allowing them to set the pace of writing their fourth studio venture. Nothing was forced and the band let the ideas come to them, instead of holing up in a house with a two-week deadline to pump out an album.

This allowed the band, which also features vocalist Warren Spicer and guitarist Nic Basque, to really focus on the band they wanted to be. They were all patient enough to let the ideas come, but had enough tension to act once they discovered a good sonic idea.

"We chipped away at songs and let them reveal themselves, pushed them around a bit," adds Woodley.

"Everything was just this constantly unfolding process of trying to figure out what the songs were until we said, 'Eureka, here they are.' We would go into a session thinking, 'If we come out of this with nothing, then great,' but we would often come out with the bed tracks or the beginnings of four songs."

And the new music certainly reflects that.

Waltzed in from the Rumbling draws comparisons to early Travis or new Radiohead with a touch of Animal Collective in between. Beautiful and intricate soundscapes are woven perfectly into Spicer's hard-hitting, haunting vocals that float over top like ghosts. It's a near perfect album that certainly tells the tale of where Plants and Animals has been over the past four years.

"And I have spent all of my days in life waiting for the time to come alive," croons Spicer over gorgeous spacy guitars and alluring symphonic patterns on No Worries Gonna Find Us.

Much of the album is like this, a sonic punch bowl of experimental ideas, leashed by a firm sense of understanding of who the band is. It's clear that Plants and Animals have found themselves again, or, rather, their sound has found them.

"Life just happens, that's how life is," adds Woodley.

"It's nice to have an outlet like we do, I think we all feel pretty lucky for that."

Plants and Animals play the RavenLaw Stage at CityFolk Sept. 15 at 10:30 p.m.

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Liberals stump for peacekeeping plan

MILITARY

Opposition says U.N. has shown itself unable to run missions

Battle lines are being drawn between Liberals and Conservatives as the government prepares to deploy hundreds of Canadian troops to an as-yet-unannounced United Nations peacekeeping mission in Africa.

The pending clash, which is breaking along ideological lines, was previewed Thursday and is expected to figure prominently when the House of Commons returns from its summer break later this month.

At a peacekeeping summit in London, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan affirmed the government's plan to make up to 600 soldiers and 150 police officers available for peace operations. The government will also spend $450 million on peace support projects, and will host a similar peacekeeping summit next year.

"Supporting and encouraging peace is certainly part of what it means to be Canada," Sajjan told counterparts from around the world.

But even as Sajjan was touting the return of Canadian blue berets, Conservative defence critics James Bezan and Pierre Paul-Hus were in Ottawa taking shots at the UN's record on peacekeeping, and the Liberal government's motives for pursuing such a mission.

Raising the spectre of peacekeeping failures including Rwanda and Bosnia, which many Canadians still remember, the Tories said the UN hasn't proven itself capable of managing peacekeeping missions.

Instead, Bezan held up Canada's participation in the U.S.-led war against Daesh as an example of a proper military mission. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan speaks during the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial meeting at Lancaster House, in London, on Thursday STEFAN ROUSSEAU/HE CANADIAN PRESS

POLITICS

Clement rejects values testing

Conservative leadership candidate Tony Clement says he will propose enhanced security screening for immigrants — but not a values test — as part of a broader plan for countering the threat of terrorism.

"If we can give our security personnel the right tools to identify potential threats to our country, then I believe that is exactly what we should be doing and quite frankly, that is where the threat is," Clement said Thursday as he shared part of the national security platform he plans to unveil in greater detail next week.

The Ontario MP and former cabinet minister initially declined to get into the debate over a proposal from leadership rival Kellie Leitch to vet immigrants and refugees for their views on what she calls anti-Canadian values.

But with discussion over the Leitch proposal still dominating the otherwise sleepy leadership campaign and other candidates speaking up, Clement said Thursday he decided to comment to keep the issue from overshadowing his policy announcement next week.

Clement said Leitch's "trial balloon"is not the right approach. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canadian swims Channel

A 30-year-old Toronto man has become the latest Canadian to successfully complete a solo swim across the English Channel. Samuel Bail finished the roughly 32-kilometre swim on Tuesday, taking 15 hours and 25 minutes to swim the distance between England and France. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lavalin cops to improper election donations

SNC-Lavalin has entered into a compliance agreement with the federal elections commissioner detailing almost $118,000 in donations to the Liberal and Conservative parties through company employees or their spouses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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GUN VIOLENCE

Texas teen dead after shooting student

A 14-year-old girl died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound Thursday after shooting and injuring another female student inside a high school in West Texas, according to the local sheriff.

Authorities did not release a possible motive for the gunfire that erupted shortly before 9 a.m. at Alpine High School in Alpine, a town of 5,900 about 220 miles southeast of El Paso. The shooting was followed by a series of unrelated threats made by a male caller that added to the chaos of the morning and diverted law enforcement from the high school.

"That's ridiculous for someone to call in something like this when we've got this situation going on," Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson told radio station KVLF.

The sheriff said the family of the girl who died had moved to the Alpine area about six months ago. She was a freshman at the school.

Dodson said the injured student ran outside seeking help and was taken to a hospital with injuries that weren't considered life threatening.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People gather near the Alpine High School after a shooting, in Alpine, Texas, Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clinton opens up about aloof persona

U.S. POLITICS

In interview, nominee recalls some formative experience

Rebecca Williams
Metro | Toronto

Hillary Clinton spoke openly in a new interview published by Humans of New York Thursday.

The Democratic presidential nominee retold a story about taking a law admissions test at Harvard and having to endure heckling by her male counterparts.

"My friend and I were some of the only women in the room, I was feeling nervous," she says. "And while we're waiting for the exam to start, a group of men began to yell at us ... it turned into a real 'pile on.' One of them even said: 'If you take my spot, I'll get drafted, and I'll go to Vietnam, and I'll die.'"

Clinton went on to perhaps challenge some of her critics head-on concerning her "aloofness."

"But I had to learn as a young woman to control my emotions ... And sometimes I think I come across more in the 'walled-off' arena. And if I create that perception, then I take responsibility."

The nominee's open comments about the balance between needing to "protect yourself" while not wanting to "seem 'walled off'" struck a chord with some women online.

"Women all over the world know this as fact, all too much. Be quiet, but not too quiet. Be smart, but not too smart ... it goes on and on," wrote a woman by the name of Michelle Jenkins in one of the top comments on the Humans of New York's Facebook post of the interview.

Hillary Clinton greets supporters Thursday at a campaign event in Charlotte, N.C. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDDLE EAST

Syria retakes territory as talks with U.S. and Russia loom

Syrian government forces and their allies captured new ground on the edge of the contested northern city of Aleppo on Thursday, tightening the siege on rebel-held parts of the city, state media and an activist group said.

The latest push came after pro-government troops recaptured several military academies over the weekend that they had lost in attacks by insurgents a month ago.

The government advance also endangers talks between Russia and the United States over a possible Aleppo cease-fire. The city, Syria's largest and once its commercial hub, has been the focus of fighting in recent months.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said government forces backed by allied groups, including the Lebanese Hezbollah militant group, captured the Ramouseh neighbourhood on the southern edge of Aleppo.

Syrian state news agency SANA quoted an unnamed military official as confirming that pro-government troops had captured large parts of Ramouseh as well as a nearby hill.

Fighting continued to rage on the southern edge of Ramouseh, according to rebel fighters, and residents of the adjacent opposition-held neighbourhood of al-Sukkari reported heavy shelling.

In a sign of the deepening conflict in Aleppo, Capt. Abdel-Razzak Abdel-Salam, a spokesman for the rebel group Nour el-Din el-Zinki, said rebel fighters resumed shelling the Castello road, the government-captured highway that was considered in international talks as a potential corridor for humanitarian aid.

The rebels had been arguing that Ramouseh, when they controlled it, could be an alternative route for humanitarian aid. But now it is under government control.

Talks between Moscow and Washington have been bogged down over ways to create a lasting a cease-fire in Aleppo, among other issues.

Abdel-Salam said that even while the Syrian government and its ally Russia were negotiating with the U.S. on a cease-fire in Aleppo they were plotting a "new betrayal" of besieged neighbourhoods, violating the spirit of the talks aimed at allowing humanitarian aid into opposition districts.

He said that "events have overtaken" cease-fire talks. "All options are open," including fighting the government on new fronts, he added.

In Turkey, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said the Syrian government was not "serious" about maintaining or reaching a cease-fire through diplomatic efforts. He said the government had rejected a plan for political transition presented by the Syrian opposition in London Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

160

The British-based Observatory for Human Rights reported that 40 days of fighting in Aleppo has killed nearly 700 civilians, including 160 children.

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Canadians to pay more for iPhone 7

TECHNOLOGY

Price is about 8 per cent higher than south of border

Even after allowing for currency exchange, Canadians will pay more than their American neighbours for the latest iteration of the iPhone.

The differential on top of an adjustment for the strong U.S. dollar adds about eight per cent to the list price of the just-announced iPhone 7 series — without a contract and depending on the handset's size and storage capacity, said Sentry Investments vice-president Andy Nasr.

That calculation is for an iPhone 7, which is largely similar to the iPhone 6, although it boasts improved camera function, better sound, greater water and dust resistance and a longer battery life. The phone starts at $899 Cdn and $649 US, with preorders beginning Friday.

With the U.S. dollar worth about $1.29 Cdn, that $649 south of the border translates into about $839 here.

Apple reserves the right to adjust pricing when it launches the iPhone 7S, likely in mid-2017. And customers in Canada can receive a rebate of up to $325 on their legacy smartphones if they exchange the handset for an iPhone 7 or 7 Plus at an Apple retail outlet.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

APPLE BETTING ON WIRELESS WORLD

Apple wants to push users further into a wireless world. Its tactics: eliminate the headphone jack and market "AirPods" — wireless earbuds that it claims are better than Bluetooth.

AirPod angst: Analysts say Apple used a smooth-surfaced design that doesn't conform to the shape of the ear, and note that having AirPods fall out while running or biking "is less forgivable at the $159 cost level."

New direction: Analysts say Apple wants to promote its own brand of wireless listening gear since the market for such accessories is growing at a time when iPhones sales are slowing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OBESE TRAVELLERS

Advocate wins appeal

You don't need to be obese to stand up for the rights of obese people, the Federal Court of Appeal has ruled in a case over "discriminatory" airline seating policies.

The appeal court ordered the Canadian Transportation Agency to take another look at a passenger rights advocate's complaint over Delta Air Lines' policy of bumping obese travellers or making them buy two seats.

The agency had dismissed Gabor Lukacs' complaint because it found he didn't have standing since he was not obese and wasn't directly affected by the practice.

The complaint stemmed from a 2014 email from a Delta customer care agent to a passenger who felt he was "cramped" on a flight by a large passenger. In apologizing to the man, Delta said it sometimes asks large passengers to move, "purchase additional seats," or take another flight.

At the time he filed the appeal, Lukacs argued that dismissing his complaint simply because the issue didn't affect him personally was akin to disregarding someone's concerns over contaminated food just because they weren't made sick by it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airbnb co-founder and CEO Brian Chesky, in a message on the vacation rental website's blog, apologized for being "slow to address" racism problems. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

SHARING ECONOMY

Airbnb vows changes after racism charges

Airbnb on Thursday apologized for its slow response to accusations of racism and outlined new policies to combat the problem, including reducing the prominence of photos in the booking process.

The company also plans to automatically block future reservations for dates where a host has told someone that a property was unavailable.

Numerous anecdotes on social media with the hashtag #AirbnbWhileBlack recounted incidents in which African-American guests were told listings were unavailable for the dates they wanted, only to see those same listings re-advertised later for the same dates.

"We have been slow to address these problems, and for this I am sorry," said Airbnb co-founder and CEO Brian Chesky in a message published on the vacation rental website's blog.

Airbnb did not bow to critics' requests that they remove profile photos entirely so that hosts can't reject guests based on appearance, saying photos are an important security feature so hosts can recognize guests when they check in.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

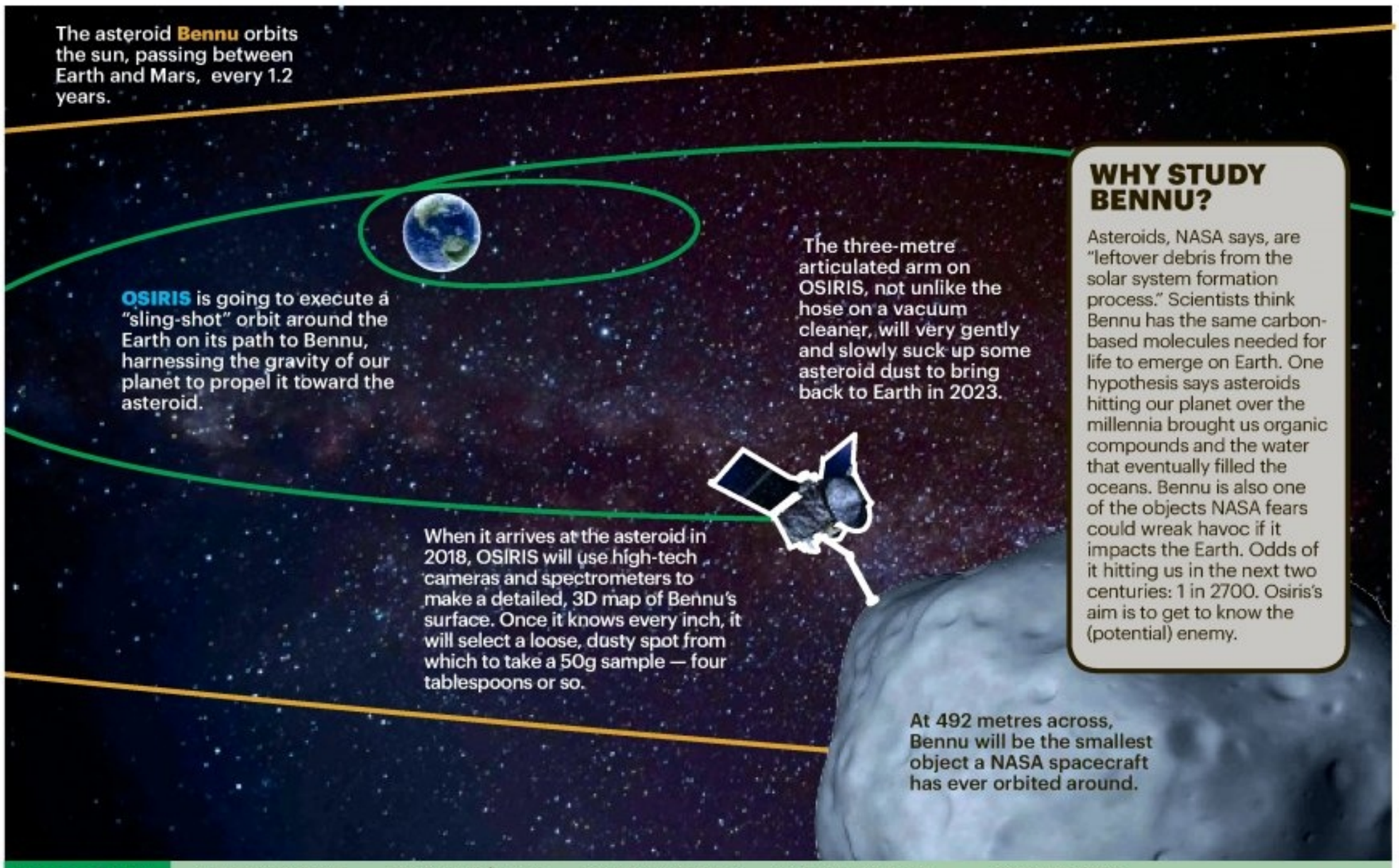
metro SCIENCE
Your essential daily news

Baby booze: The more advertising teens see for particular alcohol brands, the more they drink — of those brands, and alcohol overall

DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

LET'S GO CATCH AN ASTEROID

NASA's **Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REX)** blasted off yesterday, hurtling to the asteroid Bennu. If it succeeds in its mission to bring home a piece, this will be the first asteroid sample ever collected, and the largest souvenir taken home from space since the days of the moon missions.


The asteroid Bennu orbits the sun, passing between Earth and Mars, every 1.2 years.
OSIRIS is going to execute a "sling-shot" orbit around the Earth on its path to Bennu, harnessing the gravity of our planet to propel it toward the asteroid.
The three-metre articulated arm on OSIRIS, not unlike the hose on a vacuum cleaner, will very gently and slowly suck up some asteroid dust to bring back to Earth in 2023.
When it arrives at the asteroid in 2018, OSIRIS will use high-tech cameras and spectrometers to make a detailed, 3D map of Bennu's surface. Once it knows every inch, it will select a loose, dusty spot from which to take a 50g sample — four tablespoons or so.
At 492 metres across, Bennu will be the smallest object a NASA spacecraft has ever orbited around.
WHY STUDY BENNU?
Asteroids, NASA says, are "leftover debris from the solar system formation process." Scientists think Bennu has the same carbon-based molecules needed for life to emerge on Earth. One hypothesis says asteroids hitting our planet over the millennia brought us organic compounds and the water that eventually filled the oceans. Bennu is also one of the objects NASA fears could wreak havoc if it impacts the Earth. Odds of it hitting us in the next two centuries: 1 in 2700. Osiris's aim is to get to know the (potential) enemy.

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FINDINGS
Your week in science

LIANA JOSEPH

THAT'S WILD
In the past 20 years, a tenth of the world's unspoiled wilderness has been lost, according to a new study in the journal Current Biology. That's equal to the size of Alaska. The Amazon and central Africa saw the most devastation.

DON'T FORGET IT
A review in the journal Nature found yes, there does seem to be a higher risk of Alzheimer's disease among people who are regularly exposed to low doses of pesticides over a long periods — especially if they handle them at work.

SOUND SMART

DEFINITION
Trepanation is punching a hole in the skill, either for a medical reason or alleged spiritual enlightenment (do NOT try this at home!). A new study shows modern **trepanation**, craniotomy, a good treatment for severe, traumatic brain injury.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
Deborah got all excited by videos of at-home **trepanation** on YouTube, but we stopped her before she could drill a hole in her head.

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metro WEEKEND
Your essential daily news
MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

The Wild Life, opening this weekend, is the latest animated film to tell a story from the point of view of animals. CONTRIBUTED

Talking animals rule the theatre

ANALYSIS

Studios try to make bank on humanizing our furry pals

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Broad vocabulary, grammar and syntax are the domain of humans, but science tells us millions of species communicate by using body language and intuitive calls. Chimps can be taught to sign simple phrases and elephants have individual sounds to signify danger and emotions, but complex storytelling is left to us humans.

Unless you're at the movies. This year, theatres have been overrun by hordes of anthropomorphic animals. From Zootopia and Nine Lives to The Secret Lives of Pets and The Jungle Book, animals have been talking up a storm.

This weekend The Wild Life becomes the latest animated film to tell a story from the point of view of wildlife. A riff on Daniel Defoe's classic tale of survival, Robinson Crusoe, the film's narrator is a bright red parrot named Mak (David Howard).

In this version, Crusoe crash lands on an island where animals rule and must work with the chatty Mak, a tapir named Rosie and Kiki the kingfisher to save their home from an invasion by some savage felines.

Disney has the grandest tradition of talking animals — Mickey Mouse to The Little Mermaid's Sebastian the Crab and Jiminy Cricket to name just a few — but they are not the only ones putting words into our pet's mouths.

Flushed Away comes from Aardman, the animation company behind Wallace and Gromit.

The story of an upper class pet mouse flushed down the loo by a bullying rat features great animation, an all-star British voice cast and something that all kids love — toilet humour. It swirls along at quite a clip, effortlessly mixing literate verbal and visual jokes — we glimpse a cockroach reading Kafka's Metamorphosis — with potty humour that'll appeal to the kids.

G-Force's talking crime fighting guinea pigs come courtesy of über-producer Jerry Bruckheimer. The voice cast includes not one, but two Oscar winners, which may be an indication that the recession has finally taken root in Hollywood.

When the best gig Penelope Cruz can get involves saying lines like "Oh, I have to save his fur again?" you know times are tight for A-listers.

Pixar's Ratatouille is an unusual cross between America's Next Top Chef and Willard. Remy (voiced by Patton Oswalt) is a sophisticated rodent with a highly developed sense of smell and a wicked sense of humour.

While his rat brothers and sisters are happy to simply survive by scavenging through the garbage, Remy aspires to culinary greatness. Ratatouille does something no other film has been able to — not that a lot of have tried — it makes rats cute, lovable even.

On the live action front, Zookeeper, or as any Kevin James movie could be called, "Fat Guy Falling Down… A Lot," plays like Dr. Doolittle if Dr. Doolittle was a romantic comedy for kids. Luckily the animals come to the rescue. Luckily the monkey from The Hangover 2 has some of the film's best lines. Adam Sandler provides the monkey voice, but also listen for the beastly vocal work of Cher, Nick Nolte, Don Rickles and Sylvester Stallone.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Sully	★★
The Wild Life	★ ★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

INTERVIEW

'Gesture is political' in Window Horses

Japanese-Canadian filmmaker Ann Marie Fleming was motivated by social and political unrest as she made her animated film Window Horses, featuring the voices of Sandra Oh, Ellen Page and Don McKellar.

Oh voices the main character, a 20-something Vancouver poet of Chinese and Persian descent whose life changes while she attends a literary festival in Iran. The film is screening at the Toronto International Film Festival, which runs Sept. 8 to 18.

"The reason why I wanted to do this film and why I moved it to Iran and why I think it's important to do now is I wanted to make a gesture of understanding, compassion and intolerance in this world of increasingly dark images and xenophobia and fear," says Fleming.

"This is not a political film in any way, but the gesture is political. I just wanted to make some lightness, to be able to see people for what we have in common and how poetry — poetry! — is actually the glue that's put us all together through all these millennia."

We recently spoke with Fleming about the film, which she wrote, directed and produced (in co-production with the National Film Board of Canada). It's slated to hit theatres in spring 2017.

What is the film about?

It's about a young woman who's invited to a poetry festival in Iran, where she finds out all these truths about her father who she thought abandoned her as a small child. So it's about family history and about discovering your own voice through the voices of others.

What is the history of the film?

It started as a crowdfunding project and Sandra Oh came onboard, who I've known for a lot of years, and she loved, loved, loved the story and she loved the animation. So she came on as executive producer and she got all of these incredible actors to come onboard.

This is a very small film, it's very low-budget and I had Don McKellar, Ellen Page, Nancy Kwan, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Navid Negahban, Omid Abtahi. All of these people who all came because of Sandra. I'm just so lucky.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

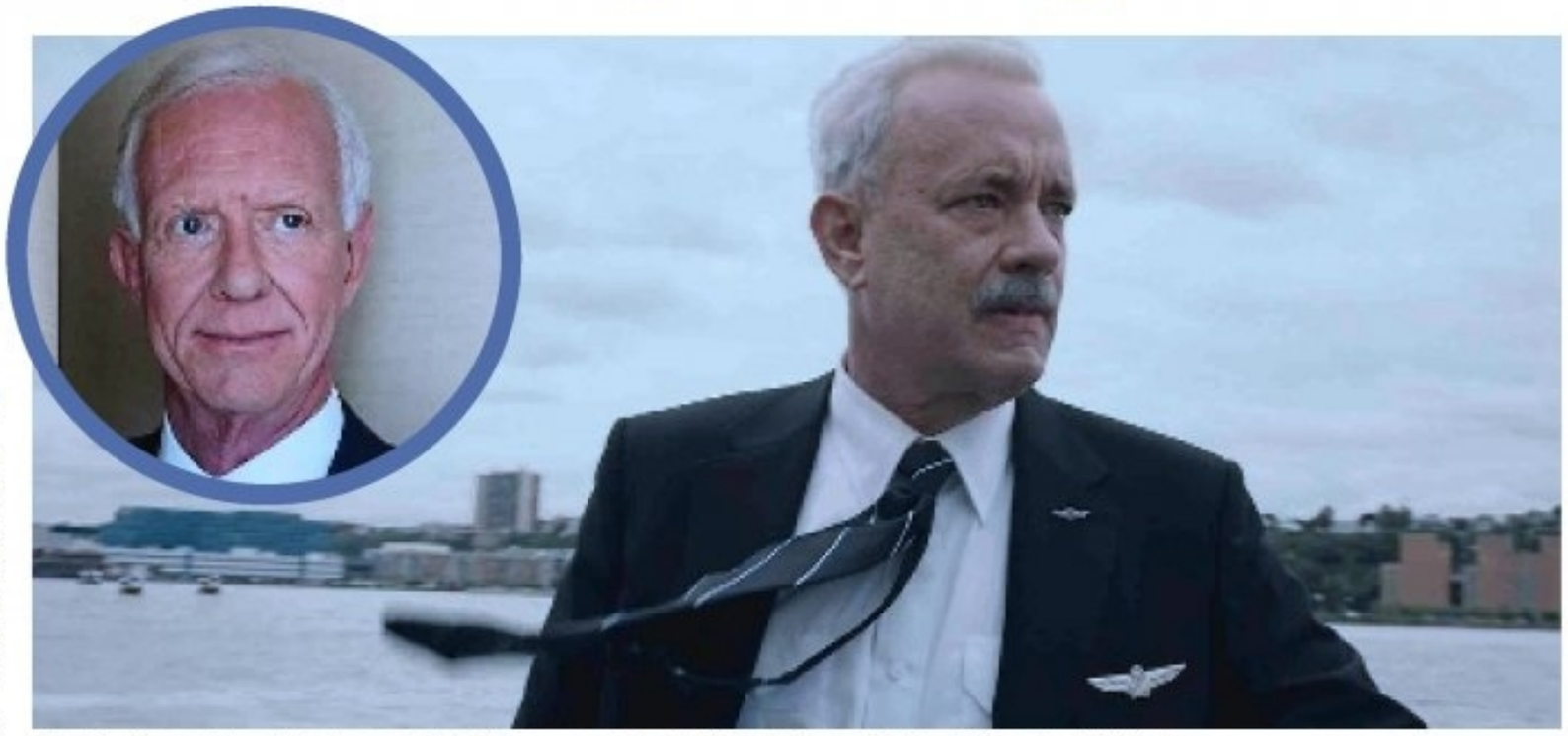
Japanese-Canadian filmmaker Ann Marie Fleming's animated feature Window Horses features the voices of Sandra Oh and Ellen Page. THE CANADIAN PRESS/TIFF HANDOUT

Man behind biopic weighs in on Sully

SULLY SULLENBERGER

Retired pilot relives Miracle on the Hudson on big screen

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



Tom Hanks portrays the former U.S. Airways captain in Clint Eastwood's latest directorial offering. HANDOUT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

On January 15, 2009, Sully Sullenberger was an airplane captain with 42 years of experience piloting a plane on a routine run from New York's LaGuardia Airport to a stopover at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. The next day he was a worldwide hero; an instant celebrity.

Shortly after takeoff his plane was disabled by a flock of Canadian Geese who flew into the engines, knocking out the plane's navigating system. In just under four minutes Sullenberger assessed the situation and, realizing there was no time to turn back, made the decision to land the craft on the Hudson River. The risky landing was successful and all 155 passengers and crew survived with only minor injuries.

To this day the now-retired pilot says that when he flies "other passengers often tell me, 'I feel so much safer now that you're on the airplane with us.' I'm not quite sure why they do, but I'm just glad they do."

The Miracle on the Hudson, as the New York press dubbed it, is now the subject of Sully, a biopic from director Clint Eastwood and star Tom Hanks.

"Watching the film, especially in the IMAX format makes you feel like you're on that flight with us," Sullenberger said, though it thankfully doesn't bring back the anxiety of the day for him.

"Enough time has passed, and I've had enough time to process this and make it a part of me and not something that just happened to me," he said. "I don't have quite the same emotions I had during that day, that flight, but the very first time I saw this film with my family it was a very emotional experience for all of us. The second time ... I was able to take it in as more of a usual movie-going experience and see some of the things I wasn't able to see the first time."

As for having Oscar winner Hanks portray him, Sullenberger said the two "talked in some detail about the script and the obligation (Hanks) felt to get it right because after the film was completed I would be going back to living my life and would have to live with however he portrayed me on screen."

Now that the movie is complete, he added that "it is a weird experience to see someone else onscreen portraying you and speaking words you actually spoke."

Sullenberger's story doesn't end with the landing. In the years since he has been named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential Heroes and Icons, written bestselling books and become a spokesman for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. It's a whirlwind that changed his life forever.

"My family and I think of this story in two phases. There was the trauma of that flight itself — and then the trauma of suddenly becoming a world recognized public figure," he said. "Within a few months we had received 50,000 communications. Emails, letters, requests. The press was camped outside our house for 10 days. It was just overwhelming. It very quickly required finding a new way of living this life as public figures.

"We had to become more complete versions of ourselves to be able to do that."

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Leonard Nimoy's wild fame led to many struggles for his son Adam, with whom he had a complex relationship. CONTRIBUTED

Son of Spock boldly goes back into past

INTERVIEW

Adam Nimoy delves into life with the man behind the ears

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

The son of Star Trek legend Leonard Nimoy remembers the first time he realized just how famous his father actually was.

Adam Nimoy was much younger then, and even though he also loved a new TV show called Star Trek, the son of Spock wasn't prepared for the barrage of fans that accosted the pair during a family visit to a West Los Angeles carnival.

"We were mobbed and had to leave immediately, it was really a weird scene," said Nimoy while promoting his film For The Love of Spock. "That was when I realized that things had changed forever — that we were no longer experiencing the same lives we'd been leading."

For the actor's son, it also meant a lifelong struggle with his complex relationship to the man behind the pointy-eared Vulcan who has been part of the zeitgeist for 50 years.

Originally envisaged as a tribute to the character of Spock, the film quickly became an exploration of the father-son relationship after Leonard Nimoy's death last year.

"He had great humility — he wanted it to be focused primarily about Spock, not on the brilliant career of Leonard Nimoy," recalled the 60-year-old filmmaker. "(But) after he died, it became clear that so many people were affected by my dad's career and who he was as a human being that we needed to include his life and legacy as well."

As such, Nimoy interviewed such series' luminaries as William Shatner and Trek revivalist J.J. Abrams to discuss their memories even as he explores his own discordant relationship with his famous father.

Still, as contentious as the Nimoy's youthful relationship was, Adam was always an admirer of Mr. Spock.

Ironically, it was this experience of fighting with fans for the affections of his own father that perhaps made him relate most to the character.

"This idea of being an outsider seems to be the number one reason why Spock has resonated with so many people," said Nimoy.

"There are a lot of great documentary filmmakers out there who could've done a great job on Mr. Spock and Leonard Nimoy but no one could've told my perspective, my particular unique story."

QUOTED

The misunderstood Leonard Nimoy

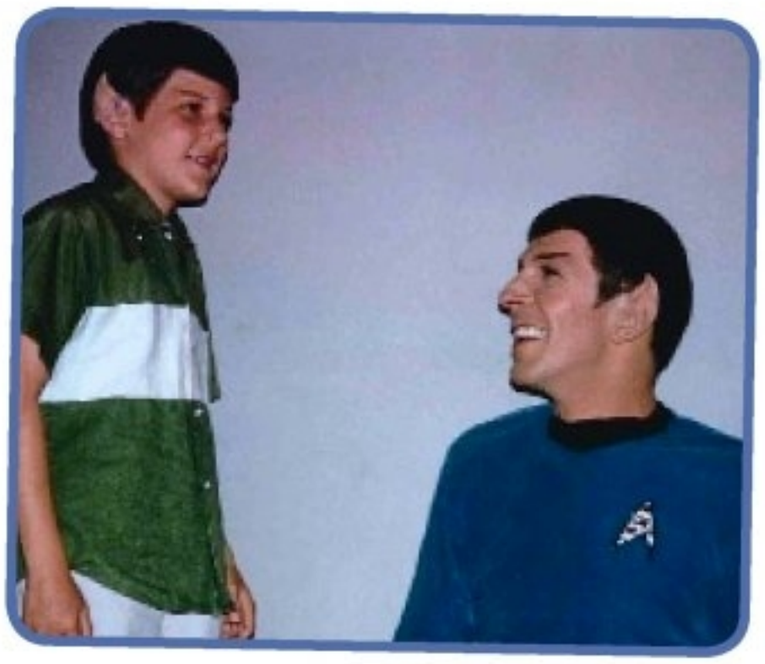
"People confused him with Mr. Spock and asked him what it was like to live on Vulcan," explained Nimoy of his dad naming his autobiography I Am Not Spock. "Up until the very last years of his life, he was trying to explain how he mistitled that book."

The power of Spock

"Spock is great to look at, number one. He's just so compelling and so interesting," said Nimoy of the character's resonance. "Spock was the guy who stood up and said it's cool to be an outsider."

Spock, before and after

"After my dad passed away there was this huge outpouring of emotion from everywhere," said Nimoy of the documentary's shift in focus to pay homage to the actor behind Spock. STEVE GOW/METRO



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MIDNIGHT STAR

Trans icon The Lady Chablis dies at 59

The Lady Chablis, the transgender performer who became a celebrity for her role in the 1994 bestseller Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, has died in Savannah.

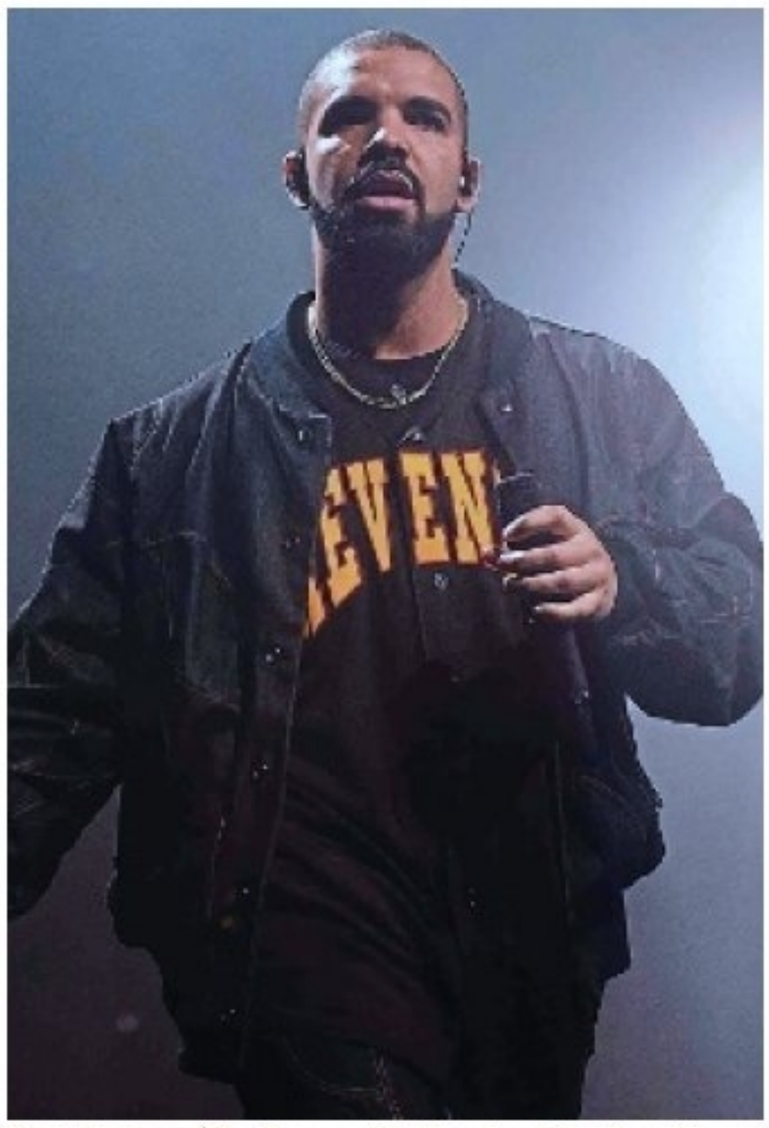
Chablis' sister, Cynthia Ponder, confirmed she died Thursday morning at a Savannah hospital. She was 59.

Author John Berendt chronicled an array of eccentric, real-life characters in Midnight. Berendt said Thursday that Chablis was the most popular. He said "she had more to do with the book's success than any other character."

Chablis played herself in the 1997 Midnight movie directed by Clint Eastwood. That same year she published an autobiography, Hiding My Candy.

Cale Hall, co-owner of the Savannah nightclub where Chablis performed since 1988, said fans admired her "pure honesty." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Lady Chablis at the premiere of Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil in 1997. SCOTT BRYANT/SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS



Drake had over $3 million worth of jewelry stolen from his tour bus in Arizona this week. CHARLES SYKES/INVISION/AP FILE

Drake gets bling back

ROBBERY

Police recover $3M worth of jewelry stolen from tour bus

Hotline Bling rapper Drake saw the safe return of millions of dollars' worth of actual bling stolen from his tour bus in Arizona.

Phoenix police recovered a reported $3 million worth of jewelry that was taken from a tour bus being used by the musician and DJ Future the Prince while they were performing Tuesday.

Travion King, 21, was booked into Maricopa County Jail on a burglary charge.

Police say they identified King as the suspect through surveillance footage at Talking Stick Resort Arena in downtown Phoenix.

They then learned that he was already in jail after being arrested for trespassing Wednesday morning by campus police at Arizona State University in nearby Tempe.

The stolen jewelry was subsequently found.

Sgt. Vince Lewis says the suspect has done contract work in the past with local venues including the arena.

The theft was reported after a Tuesday night concert. According to police, the suspect had removed a briefcase containing the jewelry within a 15-minute window.

Lewis did not say who owned the jewelry, but confirmed it did not belong to Drake.

Representatives for Drake did not immediately respond to requests for comment Wednesday. A representative for Future the Prince declined comment on the theft case.

Drake has been co-headlining his Summer Sixteen concert tour with fellow rapper Future. Future the Prince is Drake's official DJ.

The tour, which began in mid-July, includes stops all over the U.S. and in Drake's home country of Canada.

One of the most recognizable rappers for hits such as Hotline Bling and albums such as Nothing Was the Same. His latest album, Views, was released last spring.

Future the Prince is also a producer who has worked on records for several musicians including Adele.

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COLUMN

Wear white after Labour Day, you rebel

Lauren Pelley
Torstar News Service

On Tuesday morning, the day after Labour Day, I rifled through my drawers for something cool to wear in the stifling September heat.

I settled on white jeans.

Makes sense, doesn't it? The nearly 30 degree temperatures this week in Toronto have been overwhelming. And from a calendar perspective, the seasons don't change until after the Fall Equinox on Sept. 22.

But, as I slid on my snow-white denim, I heard an unidentifiable woman's voice in my head screech "Don't wear white after Labour Day!"

Is it my mother's voice or that of my style-savvy departed grandmother? I don't think so. Is it a proclamation from a '90s women's magazine or local news segment? Quite possibly. Or, perhaps, it was just some cliché that's been tossed around in conversations long enough to become ingrained in my head.

Wearing white after this arbitrary date seems, then, a mild but delightful act of rebellion. A middle finger to social norms, a casting aside of a time-honoured tradition — and an acknowledgement that this no-white custom is silly and classist in the first place.

In early 1900s America, the summer season ended with Labour Day, according to the etiquette experts of the Emily Post Institute. "Society flocked en masse" from their city homes to seaside cottages or mountain cabins, and swapped formal attire for lighter, white summer outfits. When summer ended, the wardrobes were swapped yet again. "It was an age when there was a dress code for practically every occasion, and the signal to mark the change between summer resort clothes and clothing worn for the rest of the year was encapsulated in the dictum 'No white after Labor (sic) Day,'" reads an advice page on the Institute's website.

"Society," of course, can be read as the upper echelons of society, a leisure class that could afford seasonal wardrobes and gallivant between their summer and winter homes.

These days, magazines are shifting gears — "Of course you can wear white after Labour Day," Chatelaine proclaimed just this week — and plenty of men and women have long scoffed at the notion of ditching their lighter wardrobe staples in the fall because some elitists said so a century ago.

It's just one of many fashion "rules" slowly fading away. Modern stylists and fashion writers talk about ways to wear brown and black together, or navy and black, or whatever other colours have long been deemed taboo.

Still, you may hear someone scoff at your white jeans in September, citing that century-old Labour Day dictum, and not realizing where it comes from.

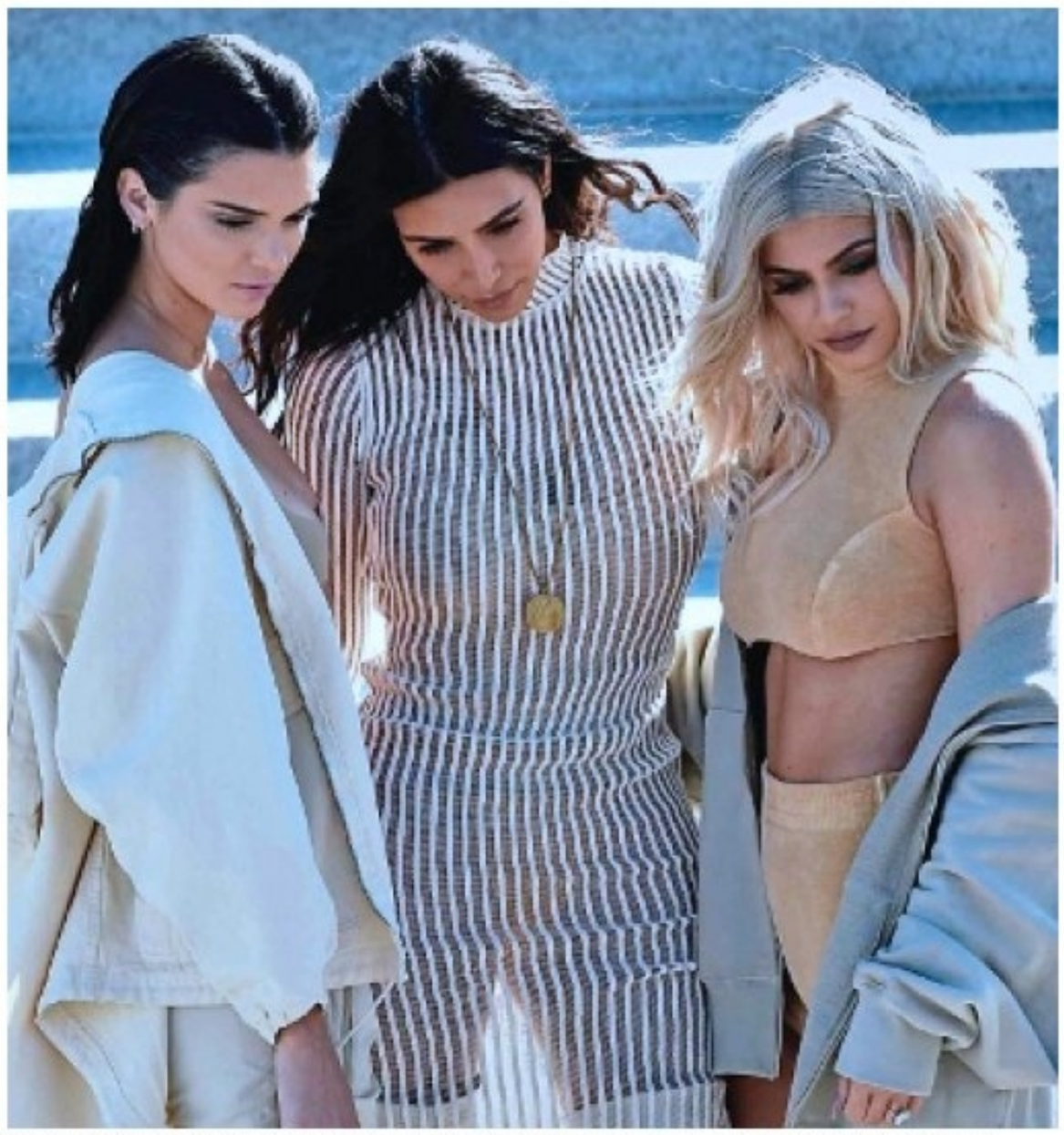
To that, I say: Rules — particularly the dumb ones — are made to be broken.

This model at New York Fashion Week rocks white after Labour Day. GETTY IMAGES

Kendall, Kylie channel that Yeezy style swagger

INTERVIEW

Sisters say they're more confident at NY Fashion Week



From left, Kendall Jenner, Kim Kardashian and Kylie Jenner attend the Kanye West Yeezy Season 4 fashion show earlier this week in New York City. GETTY IMAGES

It was quite the family fashion day for Kendall and Kylie Jenner, who came straight from brother-in-law Kanye West's Yeezy show on Roosevelt Island off Manhattan on Wednesday to their own party celebrating their fashion label, KENDALL + KYLIE.

The fashionista sisters (and reality TV stars) said they were gradually becoming more confident designers with each new collection.

"I think that every season we get more and more comfortable," said Kendall, 20, who as a model is a frequent presence on top-designer runways at Fashion Week. "It's super-awesome. The line grows with us."

Added Kylie, 19, also expected to be hitting the runway this week: "We've learned how to work with each other better. I mean, everything down to certain fabrics and patterns. We definitely learned a lot."

The sisters said they've benefited from appearing as models for designers they admire.

"I think it's cool to be able to see both sides," Kendall said.

"I get to see the designers that I work with who are obviously on a much higher level than our brand at the moment.

"It's cool to see their process and what they have to go through behind the scenes, because it's kind of a goal to set and somewhere that I would like to be one day."

At the party, in the multi-tiered, technology-heavy Samsung 837 venue in downtown Manhattan, guests sipped cocktails and munched on hors d'oeuvres as they examined the new collection — heavy on leather, both black and white.

Spray-paint artist Malcom Stuart was on hand to decorate T-shirts with his own custom emojis; One could also get a leather backpack monogrammed on the spot.

Many in the crowd had just spent the afternoon in the hot sun at West's marathon, al fresco Yeezy show for Adidas (see page 46 in Metro Life). The Jenner sisters were full of praise.

"It was so awesome," said Kylie.

"I love watching his stuff. He's a genius and just seeing his work come to life, it's really cool." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sally Snowman, the U.S. Coastguard's last lightkeeper, to celebrate 300th anniversary of Boston Light

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Charming, quaint, Gibsons also a magnet for art lovers

Good day, Sunshine

Gibsons is located on the southern end of B.C.'s Sunshine Coast. Inset: while millennials will probably not get the reference, Molly's Reach is a popular photo opp for tourists who remember the CBC show Beachcombers, which ran from 1972 to 1990. ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

Howe Sound is glass-still on the voyage from Gibsons Landing to Keats Island, save for the odd motorboat wake jostling the kayak.

The peace is also broken momentarily as a seal bursts out of the water, letting out a hearty snort before it dives back beneath the surface.

Gibsons is a quaint and colourful town at the southern end of British Columbia's Sunshine Coast, a 180-kilometre stretch of picturesque oceanside communities and jagged coastline along the Strait of Georgia.

Many visitors to Gibsons get a kick out of the numerous nods to the long-running Canadian sitcom The Beachcombers, which was filmed in the town and ran from 1972 to 1990.

The Persephone, the tug piloted in the show by log salvager Nick Adonidas (played by Bruno Gerussi), sits on a prominent street corner in the centre of town, right by Molly's Reach, the cafe where much of the action took place.

"Someone gets their picture taken every day in front of Molly's Reach," says bed-and-breakfast owner Celia Robben, who heads up Sunshine Coast Tourism.

"To a specific demographic, it's definitely a draw... If you're under 30, you don't have a clue."

Most visitors arrive at the Sunshine Coast via ferry from Vancouver's Horseshoe Bay. The northern part of the Sunshine Coast can also be accessed by ferry from Comox, on Vancouver Island.

Robben estimates up to half a million visitors come to the region every year, though the summer is by far the busiest time. The permanent population is only about a tenth of that.

"We're very much a cottage country for Vancouver and the Lower Mainland," she says.

Robben and her husband moved to Gibsons about a decade ago from Houston to open their B&B, Arcturus Retreats. She recalls making the decision while on a ski vacation in Whistler.

"As we were driving up the Sea-to-Sky (Highway), we were looking over at the Sunshine Coast, seeing our future home at a distance," she says. That was in February.

"By July, we were househunting."

Outdoor activities are a big draw, says Robben. In a climate where temperatures rarely dip below 0 C, kayaking, mountain biking and hiking can be done year-round.

The Sunshine Coast is also a magnet for art lovers, Robben says, with painters, potters, jewelry makers and glass blowers setting up shop in the region.

A purple banner outside an artists' studio signifies that the public is welcome to pop in. An "art crawl" is set for Oct. 21-23 along the Sunshine Coast Highway. Last year's event included 125 venues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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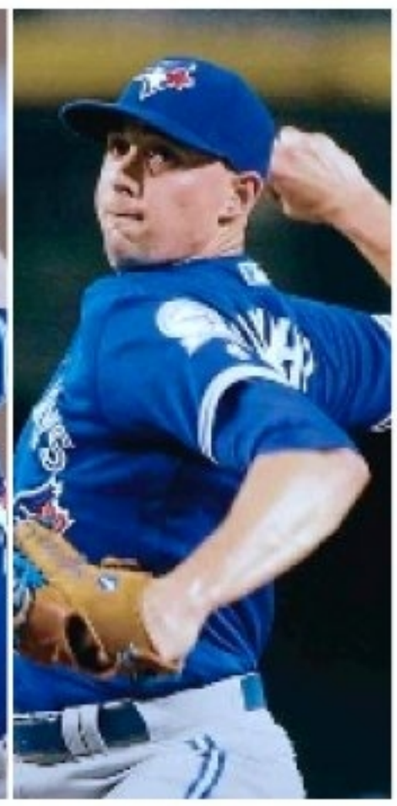
The Jays' hunt for October

The Blue Jays are hoping a return to Rogers Centre will help them bounce back after a three-game sweep in New York knocked Toronto out of first place in the American League East. The division race is the tightest in Major League Baseball with Toronto, Baltimore and New York are all within striking distance of first-place Boston. Here's a look at five things to watch as the Blue Jays make their playoff push.

1 Big guns

The Blue Jays have lined up their best starters for a key three-game series with the Boston Red Sox this weekend. Marco Estrada (8-7, 3.56 ERA) gets the nod in Friday night's opener. Left-hander J.A. Happ (17-4, 3.34) will start Saturday and Aaron Sanchez (13-2, 2.92) is on tap Sunday. Toronto — holder of the first AL wild card-spot — enters the series in second place in the East, one game behind the Red Sox.



2 Missed opportunities

Toronto had trouble cashing in runners earlier this week in New York. Improvement will be needed this weekend against Boston, a team with arguably the best offence in the major leagues. The Blue Jays cashed in only six of 28 runners in scoring position during the three-game series in the Bronx.

3 September schedule

With the exception of a seven-game West Coast road trip, Toronto will only play East division opponents the rest of the way. The Jays will end the regular season with a three-game set at Fenway Park against the Red Sox. Boston will play all 23 of its remaining games against East opponents while Baltimore will play 17 of its 23 games against division rivals.

4 Numbers game

It took 93 wins for the Blue Jays to win the East last year and a number close to that will likely be needed to claim the division title this season. To get to 93 victories, the Blue Jays (77-62) would need to close out the campaign on a 16-7 run. However, it's possible that 90 wins could be enough since there are so many intradivision matchups on the schedule.

5 Spoiled September

The 2015 edition of the Blue Jays had a 51-51 record in late July before going 42-18 en route to their first division title since 1993. Former ace David Price left Toronto for Boston as a free agent, stinging many Toronto fans. He'll likely be on the mound in that season-ending series between the Red Sox and Jays.

THE CANADIAN PRESS
PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

WORLD CUP OF HOCKEY

Canada welcomes agitator's grit, goals

Stocked with No. 1 draft picks, Hart, Norris and Vezina Trophy winners, Team Canada has no one else quite like the five-foot-nine feisty ball of energy that is Brad Marchand.

Few in hockey, for that matter, are quite like him.

"Small, slow and ugly?" Tyler Seguin, a former Boston Bruins teammate, said with a chuckle. "No, there's not many Brad Marchands out there."

Brad Marchand
GETTY IMAGES

Seguin affectionately refers to him as "the rat" but as he points out, the 28-year-old has evolved into something much more than just an agitator.

"He's very good at what he does," Seguin said this week at Canada's camp in preparation for the World Cup of Hockey. "Especially the last few years he's found the right line between getting under other players' skin, but also being disciplined. I think he was trying to figure that out his first year that I was playing with him. And he's really found it now."

A Halifax native, Marchand scored a career-high 37 goals last season, fifth-best in the NHL, right alongside more heralded scorers like Steven Stamkos, Jamie Benn and Corey Perry.

That production, combined with a still feisty brand — he ranked 19th in minor penalties last year despite Seguin's assertions — was enough to earn him a spot with Canada, edging Taylor Hall, a former No. 1 overall pick.

Marchand teared up when Doug Armstrong, Canada's GM, called to tell him he'd made the World Cup squad this summer.

"It was a dream come true and such a big honour," he said. "This is the biggest stage you can play on. You're playing with the best players from the world; it just kind brings you to that next elite level." THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I was ecstatic to get that call."
Brad Marchand

NFL

Jones ready to take flight for Falcons

The Falcons have wide receiver Julio Jones back with full clearance for practice, confirming the team's biggest star will be ready for Sunday's opening game against Tampa Bay.

Jones' status for the opener was never really in doubt, even when he was held out of last week's final preseason game with an ankle injury and was limited in Wednesday's practice.

Even so, having the All-Pro practising without restrictions was comforting for coach Dan Quinn and the Falcons.

"He looked like Julio, which is a good thing for the Falcons," Quinn said.

Jones led the league with 1,871 yards receiving last season, the second-highest total in NFL history. Jones and Pittsburgh's Antonio Brown shared the NFL lead with 136 catches.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the NFL's opening week

IN BRIEF

Mets make time for Tebow
Having flopped with the New York Jets, Tim Tebow will try to revive his career as an outfielder with the Mets.

Four years removed from his last regular-season snap as an NFL quarterback, the 29-year-old agreed Thursday to a minor-league contract with the Mets that includes a $100,000 signing bonus.

He will report Sept. 18 to the Instructional League in Port St. Lucie, Fla.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIO SCANDAL

Lochte forced to forfeit prize money

Ryan Lochte will forfeit $100,000 and a chance to swim at next year's world championships as part of the penalty for his drunken encounter at a gas station in Brazil during last month's Olympics.

The U.S. Olympic Committee and USA Swimming announced the penalties Thursday. Lochte is banned through the end of June. That means he won't be able to qualify for July's world championships, which normally don't draw top fields in the year after the Olympics.

Lochte will also get no monthly funding from either the USOC or USA Swimming.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

20

The number of hours in community service Lochte must perform as part of the penalty.

RECIPE Garlic Apple Grilled Cheese

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

If you're looking for a way to switch up your humble grilled cheese then allow us to introduce you to our garlic apple version. You may never just grill a few slices of cheese between bread again.

Ready in 15 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 1 clove garlic, grated
- 1 Gala apple, peeled and thinly sliced
- 4 pieces of multi-grain bread
- 1/2 cup crumbled, aged cheddar

Directions

1. In a medium frying pan, melt butter over medium heat. Add garlic and sauté till garlic is translucent, about 2 minutes.

2. Toss in apples and sauté until soft, about 2 to 3 minutes. Remove apples and place on a clean plate.

3. In the same pan, place a slice of bread and then cover the top with the shaved cheddar. Lay slice of apple atop cheese and then cap with the other slice of bread. Cook until the underside becomes a gold brown then flip. Remove from the pan and serve when the cheese melts thoroughly and the top is also a golden brown. Repeat with other two slices of bread.

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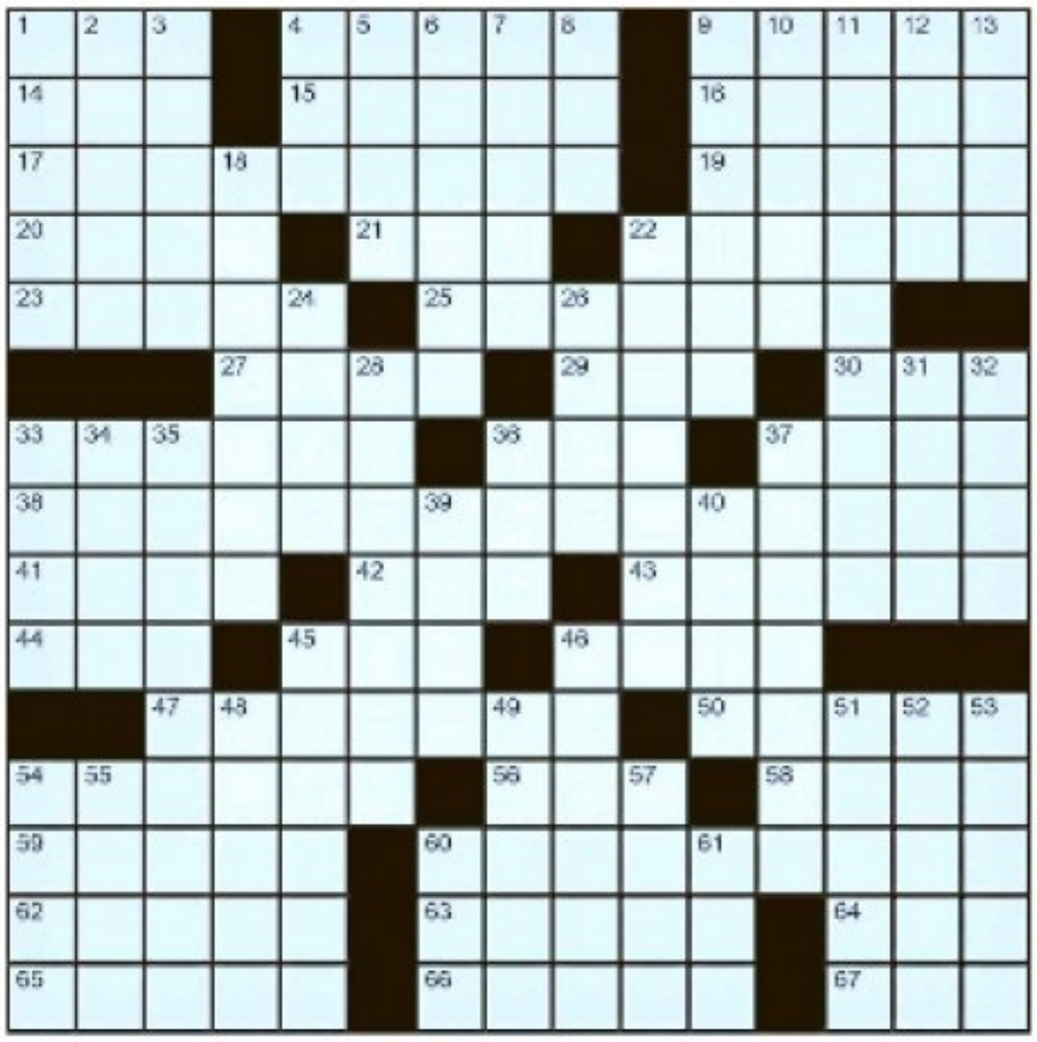
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Personhood proofs, puny-ly
4. Michael J., formally: 2 wds.
9. _ salts
14. Cacharel perfume
15. Henhouse
16. Bishop's hat
17. In proportion
19. Gripes
20. British actor Idris
21. Quebec-headquartered simulators co.
22. Grits debaters in Parliament
23. Rips
25. Robin aka Dick _
27. Overdue
29. 33.3 rpm-ers
30. Some univ. degrees
33. Tony _, "Saturday Night Fever" (1977) character
36. 23rd Greek letter
37. Kiln kind
38. September 9th, 2016... Biennial telethon (broadcasting live tonight on networks in Canada and The States) which raises money for research: 4 wds.
41. Donate
42. These: French
43. First Greek letters
44. Scottish writer Josephine
45. Campaigned
46. Drumheller's prov.
47. Manitoba's second largest city
50. SNL alum David
54. Groups of ships
56. Try the a-bit-too-hot soup
58. Balanced
59. Charter
60. Flaunts one's well-known connections: 2 wds.
62. Outer's opposite
63. Imperial decree in tsarist Russia
64. Particular pan
65. Histories
66. Briny
67. Farm pen

DOWN
1. Map detail
2. Alan of Great Big Sea
3. Ballroom favourite
4. Soldier's food-in-a-packet [acronym]
5. US campus mil. program
6. Search, for instance, the forest for food
7. Willow's flexible twig
8. "Making Plans for Nigel" band
9. Make a raised design
10. Renaissance painter, _ della Francesca
11. About an hour southeast of Winnipeg, it's Manitoba's third largest city
12. Golden _ (Ornamental pond fish)
13. Tidying target
18. Ms. Dietrich
22. Representative
24. Partially-eaten-here in-a-tin fish...
26. Additionally
28. Tropical fruit-eating birds
31. On the Atlantic
32. Gibraltar, et al.
33. Ernest G. Bilko's rank [abbr.]
34. End in _ _ (Draw)
35. One would think they would be a sailor's favourite legume: 2 wds.
36. Liq. measures
37. Where writers will write: 2 wds.
39. Remain unsettled
40. Hgts.
45. Appraisers
46. Muppets drummer
48. Adjust anew
49. Port city of Japan
51. Declares
52. Terminus
53. Laud to the heavens
54. Impertinent
55. Ms. Horne
57. Bug
60. Greek letters
61. Actress Susan

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Guess what? The next 12 months are fabulous for close friendships and relationships. It's the best time to marry in over a decade! Yee-haw!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Start to look for fabulous opportunities to improve your job or get a better job, because they exist for you in the next 12 months. (Would I kid you?)

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Grab every chance to take a vacation and enjoy the arts, sports, fun times and flirtations in the next 12 months. Plan on lots of vacations in the next year!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
For the next 12 months, you have fabulous opportunities in real estate! If you cannot speculate in real estate, you can at least improve your own home

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your everyday experiences, encounters and relationships will be super positive in the next year. This blesses all your dealings with relatives, siblings and neighbors.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Finally, in the year ahead, you will have a chance to make more money. Not only will you boost your income, many of you will make major purchases as well.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today Lucky Jupiter moves into your sign for the first time since 2005. This brings you great good fortune! Expect sunny days ahead.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
For the next year, you will be quietly confident, because your focus will be on your inner development. Use this time to plan what you want your future to be all about.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Do not feel worried if you are discouraged today. It's just one of those things. But the truth is, you can see what really is happening. Therefore, do nothing. Be safe.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Although you want to travel to expand your world through an increase in learning and knowledge, something is holding you back. The bottom line is that it is self-doubt: Don't listen to this voice.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Do not be discouraged if someone older is critical of you. Basically, some kind of misunderstanding is the cause. Do not take it personally.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a poor day to make important decisions or to accept instructions or direction from anyone in a position of authority. Everything is confusing!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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		6		8	3	4		
	9		6			7		
	6	7	8	1	5	2	3	
		8			9		1	
		3	4	7		8		
5	1							

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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7	4	3	1	6	9	2	5	8
1	5	9	2	4	8	7	3	6
2	6	8	3	5	7	4	1	9
9	3	7	8	1	5	6	4	2
6	8	1	7	2	4	3	9	5
4	2	5	9	3	6	1	8	7
3	7	2	5	8	1	9	6	4
8	1	4	6	9	2	5	7	3
5	9	6	4	7	3	8	2	1

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